

# Introduction to Botany. Lecture 1

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# Outline

- 1 Course in general
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  - Grading
  - Course schedule
- 2 Importance of plants
- 3 Three best plants of my 2011 summer

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# Course description

This course will introduce the principles of plant

- structure,
- function,
- diversity

as evolved over time. You will gain a better understanding of plant life, diversity and distribution on this planet and learn to appreciate plants as elaborate and beautiful organisms, which are a significant part of our culture. You will learn about historical experiments and persons, who had a significant impact on the field and get introduced to current findings. In the labs you will observe plant structure and gain experience on how to collect and analyze experimental data.

# Instructor

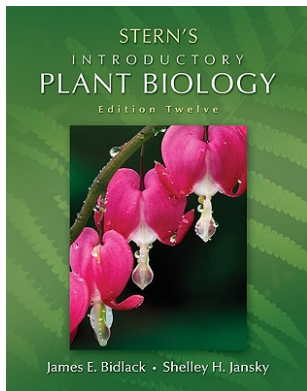
- Dr. Alexey Shipunov
- Office: Moore 229
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**Lectures** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m., Moore 16

**Laboratories** Mondays, Moore 210

**Web site** : [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_154/](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_154/)

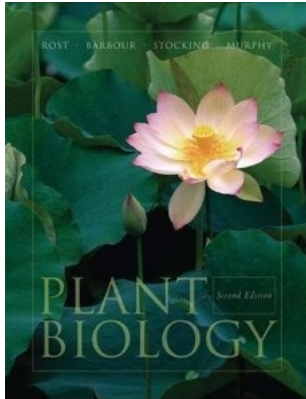
# Main textbook



**Textbook 1** Stern's Introductory Plant Biology (Bidlack & Jansky., 12 ed., McGraw-Hill)



# Secondary textbook



## Textbook 2 Plant Biology (Rost et al., 2nd ed., Thomson Brooks/Cole)

# Exams

- Four exams are given during the semester.
- Only three best exams contribute to the final grade.
- Missed exams count zero points. There are **no make-up** exams.

# Labs

- This is a **laboratory course**, meaning that receiving zero points for more than one laboratory results in a failed course.
- Grading of laboratories is based on reports and/or drawings.
- Written reports and/or drawings are prepared and finished during laboratory sessions and passed to the instructor right after the particular laboratory session.

# Absence

There are five legitimate reasons for absence:

- 1 emergency situations,
- 2 attested medical conditions,
- 3 military duty,
- 4 participation in MSU sports events,
- 5 dependent sick leave.

Absence from exams or laboratories needs to be announced to the instructor in advance. I strongly recommend attending lectures regularly. Lecture contents will not exactly follow the textbook and additional information will be supplied.

# Final questions

- At the end of every lecture I will give one short test question to answer.
- Each question will give from 1 to 3 points.

# Points

A total of 600 points can be earned and are distributed as follows:

**Lecture tests** : 60 points (1–3 points per question)

**Three best exams** : 300 points

**Laboratories** : 240 points (20 points per lab)

Grading points may vary between exams, tests, and labs.

# Letter grades

- $A \geq 90\%$
- $B \geq 80\%$
- $C \geq 70\%$
- $D \geq 60\%$
- $F < 60\%$

A minimum of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.

# Tentative course sequence

- Plant cells
- Plant tissues
- Plant organs
- Plant metabolism
- Plant reproduction
- Plant diversity



# Importance of plants

Why plants are important?

## *Lilium philadelphicum*, Lake Boyer (1)



## *Lilium philadelphicum*, Lake Boyer (2)



## *Lilium philadelphicum*, Lake Boyer (3)



# *Banksia* sp., Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, Australia (tree)



# *Banksia* sp., Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, Australia (flowers)



# *Banksia* sp., Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, Australia (open fruits)



# *Botrychium boreale*, Kiv islands, White sea (1)





## *Botrychium boreale*, Kiv islands, White sea (2)



# Kiv islands, White sea



# Final question (1 point)

## Final question (1 point)

Why plants are important?

# Summary

- BIOL 154: download the syllabus from the Web site  
([http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_154/](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_154/)).
- Plants are extremely important, highly diverse and deserve a scientific study.

# For Further Reading



J. E. Bidlack, Sh. H. Jansky.  
*Stern's introductory plant biology*. 12th edition.  
McGraw-Hill, 2011.  
*Chapter 1.*



Th. L. Rost, M. G. Barbour, C. R. Stocking, T. M. Murphy.  
*Plant Biology*. 2nd edition.  
Thomson Brooks/Cole, 2006.  
*Chapter 1.2.*